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or near it, are many coal mines, salt ponds and small lakes. It passes through one lake, two hundred and ten miles from its mouth, which is twenty miles in length, and three or four miles in breadth, called Illinois Lake.”*

*A late officer of the U. S. Army.

THE FIRST BELL.

(From Illinois Monthly Magazine, December, 1830.)

During the last month, the town of Vandalia received a valuable acquisition, in the donation of a fine toned *bell*, for the cupola of its meeting house; and we notice the subject as well to have an opportunity of expressing our gratitude to the generous donor, as to indulge in some reflections which are awakened by the subject. This bell was presented to the Presbyterian congregation of Vandalia, by Romulous Riggs, Esq., a merchant of Philadelphia, in the name of his infant daughter, *Miss Illinois Riggs; a young lady who is indebted for her name to the partiality of her parents for our new and flourishing state. Mr. Riggs is one of the largest proprietors of land in our “military tract;” and being thus interested in our prosperity, exhibits a praiseworthy degree of public spirit in expending a portion of his wealth in aid of our infant institutions. This bell, which was hung on the 5th day of November, and announced its own arrival in joyous tones, bears the following inscription:

“ILLINOIS RIGGS,
To the Presbyterian Congregation of
Vandalia,
1830.”

This event is interesting, inasmuch as this is the first public bell, introduced into the state by the American in-

*The Secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society will be glad to receive information in regard to the life history of this little “Illinois” girl.

habitants. The French had one or more bells in their villages on the Mississippi, but the public buildings erected by the American settlers have been totally destitute of this useful appendage. *Ours* therefore will, at some future period, be looked upon as a valuable relic of early times. Should the interesting child, whose name is inscribed upon it, be spared by Providence, to reach the years of maturity, it is not unlikely that within that period, a hundred bells will sound their peals over the wide prairies of Illinois, and it will be a pleasing thought to her, that the donation made in her name, was the *pioneer*, if we may so express it, the very Daniel Boone of church bells in this region. For these reasons we have thought proper to mention this event, and preserve the date.

The cheerful sound of a bell, gives a sprightliness to the dull monotony of village life; while it serves a variety of useful purposes, and is, in fact, a substantial addition to the comforts of life. It calls the children to school through the week, and the people to church on Sunday. It tells those who have no clock, when to breakfast and dine, and admonishes those who have them, of the irregularity of their time-pieces. It produces regularity by fixing the same periods of relaxation and labour for all; and of course, promotes economy of time, and habits of punctuality. It is a general monitor, marking to all, the flight of the speedy hours, reminding them of their several duties, and inviting them at stated times to labour, to refreshment, or to worship.

To such of us as have wandered to the far west from the Atlantic towns and cities, there are many deeply affecting associations connected with the sound of a bell. Which of us does not recollect the school, or the college bell, that called us in our boyhood to the labours of the day—those labours which, to a few, were full of joy and hope, to many dull and irksome? Who does not remember the merry bells which ring on the eve of a market day, fill-

ing up the long evening with sounds of gladness! or the triumphant peals which announce a victory gained by our republican arms, which ushered the morning of the anniversary of independence, or welcomed the arrival of some honorable patriot or hero, a Decatur, a Washington, or a La Fayette? There is no sensitive mind upon which a deep and lasting impression is not made by the holy calm of a Sabbath morn. When the sun shines forth with more than usual brilliance, when the elements are still, when all is silence and repose, as if the whole universe joined in one spontaneous act of worship, when the weary rest from labour, and a whole people arrayed in their best garb, assemble in the places where prayer is wont to be made—then the peals of the “church going bell” strike upon the ear with a holy, yet a cheerful sound, that never fades from the memory. Have any of us followed the remains of some dear relative to the tomb, and can we ever forget the solemn toll, whose every note fell heavily and sadly on the heart? These are the most cherished associates of youth; and after residing for years at some secluded spot, where no sound ever recalled them, the ringing of a bell brings up a rush of tender feelings, and calls us back to the homes of our childhood, and the joys and sorrows of the spring of life.

CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND STUDENTS
IN ILLINOIS COLLEGE, 1833-34.

(From the Western Monthly Magazine.)

We have received with pleasure a pamphlet with the above title. Having a warm side for Illinois the infant growth of whose institutions we witnessed for so many years, we see with unmingle gratification every indication of her advancing prosperity. It is but five or six years since we attended a meeting in Jacksonville—then a hamlet of log houses—held in an unfinished building,